

U.S.S.N. 08/724,631

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 13 and 16-24. Applicant respectfully reminds the Examiner that claims 14 and 15 have been previously canceled. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for precipitating unprecipitated nucleic acid from an aqueous solution, the method comprising the step of
adding to the solution a polymeric carrier molecule coupled to an indicator molecule, and an amount of a salt and an amount of an alcohol sufficient to precipitate the nucleic acid from the solution.
2. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the carrier molecule is covalently attached to the indicator molecule.
3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the carrier molecule is covalently attached to the indicator molecule by reductively substituting the indicator molecule at a pair of vicinal hydroxides on the carrier molecule.
4. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the carrier molecule is a polysaccharide.
5. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the carrier molecule is a glycogen.
6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the carrier molecule is Type III glycogen.
7. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the indicator molecule is selected from a group consisting of a dye and a fluorophore.

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8. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the indicator molecule and the carrier molecule are coupled via an amine linkage.

9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the indicator molecule is selected from a group consisting of 5-(aminoacetamido)fluorescein (fluoresceinyl glycine amide), 4'-((aminoacetamido)methyl)fluorescein, 5-aminoeosin, N-(2-aminoethyl)-4-amino-3,6-disulfo-1,8naphthalimide dipotassium salt, 5-((2-aminoethyl)amino)naphthalene-1-sulfonic acid sodium salt, 5-((2-aminoethyl)thioureidyl)fluorescein, 4'-(aminomethyl) fluorescein hydrochloride, 5(aminomethyl)fluorescein hydrochloride, 7-amino-4-methylcoumarin, 1-aminomethylpyrene hydrochloride, 8-aminonaphthalene-1,3,6-trisulfonic acid disodium salt (ANTS), 5-(and-6)-((N-(5-aminopentyl)amino)carbonyl)-tetramethylrhodamine (tetramethylrhodamine cadaverine), 5((5-aminopentyl)thioureidyl)eosin hydrochloride (eosin cadaverine), 5-((5-aminopentyl)thioureidyl)fluorescein (fluorescein cadaverine), 6-aminoquinoline, 5-(((2-(carbohydrazino)methyl)-thio)acetyl)amino)fluorescein, Cascade Blue cadaverine trisodium salt, Cascade Blue ethylenediamine trisodium salt, Cascade Blue hydrazide tripotassium salt, and Cascade Blue hydrazide trisodium salt.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the indicator molecule is 5-(and-6)-((N-(5-aminopentyl)amino)carbonyl)-tetramethylrhodamine (tetramethylrhodamine cadaverine).

11. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the indicator molecule is a pH-responsive indicator molecule.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the pH-responsive indicator molecule is selected from a group consisting of parosoiniline, New Fuchsin, and a succinimidyl ester.

13-24. (Canceled)